

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22 29, wherein said second lock element comprises a nipple extending, starting from said shield, in a said first oblique direction.

24. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23 25, wherein said mask comprises a substantially conical cavity narrowing toward said first lock element in order to guide said nipple of said second lock element toward said first lock element arranged at a bottom of said cavity, in said movement of bringing said shield toward said mask.

25. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23,
A head protective equipment, comprising:

- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to

said face top and bottom parts, and being directed along a first oblique direction oriented toward an inside of said mask,

wherein said second lock element comprises a nipple extending, starting from said shield, in said first oblique direction, and

wherein said nipple is adapted to move longitudinally, substantially in said first oblique direction, between a locked position and an unlocked position, within a grasping unit ~~if of~~ of said shield comprising grasping surfaces for a user's fingers.

26. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 25, provided with a push-button placed and movable substantially between said grasping surfaces and manually operable in order to move said nipple from said locked position to said unlocked position.

27. Canceled without prejudice

28. (Currently amended) ~~The equipment as claimed in claim 23,~~
A head protective equipment, comprising:

- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts, and being directed along a first oblique direction oriented toward an inside of said mask,

wherein said second lock element comprises a nipple extending, starting from said shield, in said first oblique direction, and

wherein said mask has guidance surfaces, diverging from a ridge adapted to be situated substantially in coincidence with a user's nose bridge, and said nipple is flanked by two side parts that are adapted to be substantially symmetrical with respect to a median plane of symmetry of said user's face when the equipment is being worn by said user, said side parts extending between a high end close to said nipple and a low end distant from said nipple and adapted to become more distant from said median plane toward said low end, in order to allow the guidance, by said guidance surfaces, of the positioning of said shield on said mask.

29. (Currently amended) The equipment as claimed in claim 22,

A head protective equipment, comprising:

- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts, and being directed along a first oblique direction oriented toward an inside of said mask,

further comprising a push-button acting as a locking indicator and adapted to control blocking, in an active position, of any movement of said first lock element with respect to said second lock element, said push-button being in said active position only when said mask and said shield are secured to each other by a mutual interlocking of complementary shapes of said first and second lock elements.

30. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22 32, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to allow a movement of said shield with respect to said mask, and to favor the application of said shield over said user's face.

31. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30, wherein said first and second lock elements are mobile with respect to each other, about a horizontal axis, by means of two links.

32. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22
A head protective equipment, comprising:

- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts, and being directed along a first oblique direction oriented toward an inside of said mask,

wherein said mask comprises a locking ramp adapted to guide an attachment nose comprising said second lock element of said shield toward a locked position of said shield on said mask, while said shield is moving toward said mask, and wherein said locking ramp has a first branch superimposed with said first lock element and which is oriented with a component that is downward and toward an interior of said mask, said locking ramp having a second branch oriented downward from a free end of said first branch .

33. Canceled without prejudice

34. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30,
A head protective equipment, comprising:

- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts, and being directed along a first oblique direction oriented toward an inside of said mask,

wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to allow a movement of said shield with respect to said mask, and to favor the application of said shield over said user's face, further comprising spring means adapted to bring said shield toward said user's face, when said shield is secured to said mask and when said mask is worn by said user.

35. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30 34, comprising a harness fitted with straps adapted to maintain said mask in said use position on said user's head and in which said shield comprises two guidance members adapted for each one respectively to become inserted under a strap of said harness when putting said shield into position on said mask.

36. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 35, wherein said guidance members are adapted to cause said straps, under which said guidance members are inserted while said shield is being put into position on said mask, to rise over sides of said shield.

37.-42. Cancelled without prejudice

43. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23, A head protective equipment, comprising:

- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts, and being directed along a first oblique direction oriented toward an inside of said mask,

wherein said second lock element comprises a nipple extending, starting from said shield, in said first oblique direction, and

wherein said first lock element comprises a first ramp which is circular and continuous about said first oblique direction, and wherein the nipple is engaged in a locked position with said ramp.

44. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 28, wherein said mask comprises a substantially conical cavity narrowing toward said first lock element in order to guide said nipple of said second lock element toward said first lock element arranged at a bottom of said cavity, in said movement of bringing said shield toward said mask.

45. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 28, wherein said nipple is adapted to move longitudinally, substantially in said first oblique direction, between a locked position and an unlocked position, within a grasping unit of said shield comprising grasping surfaces for a user's fingers.

46. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 45, provided with a push-button placed and movable substantially between said grasping surfaces and manually operable in order to move said nipple from said locked position to said unlocked position.

47. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23, wherein said mask comprises a substantially conical cavity narrowing toward said first lock element in order to guide said nipple of said second lock element toward said first lock element arranged at a bottom of said cavity, in said movement of bringing said shield toward said mask.

48. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23, wherein said nipple is adapted to move longitudinally, substantially in said first oblique direction, between a locked position and an unlocked position, within a grasping unit of said shield comprising grasping surfaces for a user's fingers.

49. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 48, provided with a push-button placed and movable substantially between said grasping surfaces and manually operable in order to move said nipple from said locked position to said unlocked position.

50. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23, wherein said mask has guidance surfaces, diverging from a ridge adapted to be situated substantially in coincidence with a user's nose bridge, and said nipple is flanked by two side parts that are adapted to be substantially symmetrical with respect to a median plane of symmetry of said user's face when the equipment is being worn by said user, said side parts extending between a high end close to said nipple and a low end distant from said nipple and adapted to become more distant from said median plane toward said low end, in order to allow the guidance, by said guidance surfaces, of the positioning of said shield on said mask.

51. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 34, wherein said first and second lock elements are mobile with respect to each other, about a horizontal axis, by means of two links.

52. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 43, wherein said mask comprises a substantially conical cavity narrowing toward said first lock element in order to guide said nipple of said second lock element toward said first lock element arranged at a bottom of said cavity, in said movement of bringing said shield toward said mask.

53. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 43, wherein said nipple is adapted to move longitudinally, substantially in said first oblique direction, between a locked position and an unlocked position, within a grasping unit of said shield comprising grasping surfaces for a user's fingers.

54. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 52, provided with a push-button placed and movable substantially between said grasping surfaces and manually operable in order to move said nipple from said locked position to said unlocked position.

55. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 43, wherein said mask has guidance surfaces, diverging from a ridge adapted to be situated substantially in coincidence

with a user's nose bridge, and said nipple is flanked by two side parts that are adapted to be substantially symmetrical with respect to a median plane of symmetry of said user's face when the equipment is being worn by said user, said side parts extending between a high end close to said nipple and a low end distant from said nipple and adapted to become more distant from said median plane toward said low end, in order to allow the guidance, by said guidance surfaces, of the positioning of said shield on said mask.